Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W ------055267 271723Z /41

O R 271705Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY BONN TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9728 INFO USMISSION USBERLIN AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), GW

SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S PROPOSED SCHEDULE

REFERENCE: STATE 159242

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR MRS. CARTER AND AMY WITHIN THE EMBASSY AND WITH THE FRG. WE BELIEVE THE SCHEDULE PROPOSED FOR SUNDAY, JULY 16 I.E. THE RHINE TRIP AND VISIT TO LINZ, IS EXCELLENT AND WILL PROVIDE A STIMULATING THOUGH RELAXED DAY FOR MRS. CARTER. THE FRG, HOWEVER, HAS RESERVATIONS -- WHICH WE SHARE -- ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF A VISIT TO MARIA LAACH. THE FOLLOWING ARE OUR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR JULY 16 AND 17. SEPTEL FOLLOWS ON MRS. CARTER'S OPEN PERIOD ON MORNING OF JULY 14.

2. SUNDAY, JULY 16.

A. TRAIN FROM BAD GODESBERG TO BINGEN. AS NOTED REFTEL, D509 WILL DEPART BAD GODESBERG AT 1031 AND ARRIVE IN BINGEN AT 1150. THIS IS A SCENIC RIDE ALONG THE RHINE CONFIDENTIAL

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AND SHOULD BE MOST PLEASANT. FOR REASONS OF SECURITY, COMFORT AND POSSIBLE PRESS HANDLING (SEE PARA 5, BELOW), HOWEVER, WE RECOMMEND THAT TRAVEL BE BY SPECIAL CAR ATTACHED TO D509. THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE ONE OR MORE SPECIAL CARS AND DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF A SPECIAL TRAIN. WE BELIEVE A SPECIAL CAR COUPLED TO D509 WOULD SUFFICE TO MEET THE

REQUIREMENTS NOTED ABOVE. ACTION REQUESTED: SHOULD WE FORMALLY REQUEST A SPECIAL CAR OR SPECIAL TRAIN FOR MRS. CARTER AND HER PARTY? WHAT WILL BE THE SIZE OF MRS. CARTER'S PARTY, INCLUDING SECRET SERVICE?

- B. RHINE TRIP. WE ASSUME TRAVEL WOULD BE BY PRIVATELY CHARTERED RHINE STEAMER SINCE SHIP SCHEDULES FOR JULY WILL NOT ACCOMMODATE THE PROPOSED ITINERARY. WHILE THERE IS A RHINE STEAMER WHICH DEPARTS BINGEN AT 1200 IT GOES ONLY AS FAR AS ST. GOARSHAUSEN (SOUTH OF KOBLENZ). THIS WOULD NECESSITATE A 75 MINUTE STOPOVER IN ST. GOARSHAUSEN BEFORE THE CONNECTING VESSEL ARRIVES FOR THE ONWARD JOURNEY TO LINZ (WHERE THE STEAMER WOULD ARRIVE AT 1800). A REVIEW OF SHIP SCHEDULES INDICATES NO SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVES TO A PRIVATE BOAT IF MRS. CARTER WISHES TO VISIT LINZ ALONG THE LINES OF REFTEL.
- C. WE HAVE INFORMALLY RAISED WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE GERMANS PROVIDING AND PAYING FOR A STEAMER. THE INITIAL, PRIVATE RESPONSE HAS BEEN POSITIVE. ACTION REQUESTED: SHOULD WE FORMALLY REQUEST THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO CHARTER A RHINE STEAMER? IF SO, BECAUSE IT IS PEAK SEASON FOR RHINE TRIPS, WE SHOULD NOTIFY THE FOREIGN OFFICE ASAP AS TO THE SIZE OF MRS. CARTER'S PARTY, AGAIN INCLUDING THE SECRET SERVICE DETAIL.

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- D. LINZ. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES REGARDING MRS. CARTER'S VISIT.
- E. INFORMAL PRIVATE DINNER. WE BELIEVE THE DRACHENFELS, GODESBURG OR STEIGENBERGER RESTAURANTS WOULD ALL OFFER GOOD CUSINE, PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE AND SCENIC SURROUNDINGS. THE DRACHENFELS AND GODESBURG ARE LOCATED ATOP HILLS AND OFFER BROAD PANORAMAS OF BONN AND THE RHINE RIVER. THE STEIGENBERGER IS A ROOFTOP RESTAURANT WITH VERY GOOD CUSINE AND AFFORDS A GOOD VIEW OF BONN AND ITS ENVIRONS. THE MATERNUS, WHILE A FIRST CLASS RESTAURANT, MAY BE TOO SMALL TO ACCOMMODATE THE FIRST LADY'S PARTY AND, BEING GROUND LEVEL, DOES NOT PROVIDE A SCENIC VIEW OF THE AREA. WE PROPOSE TO SHOW MRS. CARTER'S ADVANCE TEAM ALL OF THE RESTAURANTS IN QUESTION. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL JOIN MRS. CARTER AND AMY FOR DINNER.
- 3. MONDAY, JULY 17.

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A. THE FRG HAS OFFERED THE VIEW THAT MARIA LAACH WOULD BE INADEQUATE AS THE CENTERPIECE OF MRS. CARTER'S SCHEDULE. MANY VISITORS INDEED FIND IT ON THE DULL SIDE, ALBEITHISTORICAL. IN ITS PLACE WE PROPOSE THAT MRS. CARTER AND AMY CONSIDER A DRIVE THROUGH THE PICTURESQUE MOSEL VALLEY AND A VISIT TO BURG ELTZ.

B. BURG ELTZ. BURG ELTZ IS A SMALL FORTIFIED CASTLE WITHIN EASY DRIVING DISTANCE FROM BONN, AND ONE OF GERMANY'S FINEST LANDMARKS. IT IS IN A THICK FOREST, ON A HILL, PROTECTING THE ELTZ CREEK BELOW AND THE TRADE ROUTE THAT RAN ALONG ITS VALLEY. VICTOR HUGO DESCRIBED IT AS "HIGH, ENORMOUS, STRANGE, SINISTER -- I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT." THIS 12TH CENTURY FORT -- REALLY A FORTIFIED VILLAGE -- WAS COMMISSIONED BY FRIEDRICH BARBAROSSA IN 1157 TO CONTROL TAXES AND TERRITORY, AND STILL CONTAINS THE FLAVOR AND FURNISHINGS OF ITS ANCIENT MISSION. THERE IS A FINE COLLECTION OF OLD FURNITURE, WEAPONS, ARMOR, AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, PLUS A LARGE KITCHEN WITH UTENSILS DATING SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS BACK.

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- C. WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT MRS. CARTER AND AMY DEPART BONN AT 0930 AND PROCEED TO BURG ELTZ ALONG THE MOSEL AND RHINE VALLEYS (VIA KOBLENZ). THIS DRIVE, WHICH WE RECOMMEND INCLUDE SEVERAL STOPS ALONG THE MOSEL, WOULD TAKE SOME 2 1/2 HOURS, ALTHOUGH IT COULD BE CUT BACK TO ABOUT 75 MINUTES IF MRS. CARTER DECLINED TO MAKE ANY STOPS. AFTER ARRIVAL AT BURG ELTZ AT APPROX. 1200, MRS. CARTER AND AMY COULD SPEND SOME TWO HOURS AT THE BURG. THIS WOULD INCLUDE LUNCH AT THE BURG ELTZ RESTAURANT WHICH COMMANDS A SPLENDID VIEW OF THE AREA. DEPARTURE COULD BE AT 2:00 P.M. WITH A LEISURELY DRIVE THROUGH THE EIFEL MOUNTAINS, AND RETURN TO BAD GODESBERG AT ABOUT 4:00 P.M. (THE RETURN DRIVE COULD ALSO BE COMPRESSED TO ABOUT AN HOUR.) ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON VIEWS.
- 4. COMPOSITION OF MRS. CARTER'S AND ARMY'S PARTY. AS INSTRUCTED WE HAVE TOLD THE CHANCELLERY THAT MRS. SCHMIDT WOULD BE WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY MRS. CARTER ON JULY 16 AND/OR 17. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS INDEPENDENTLY RAISED THE PROSPECT OF MRS. VON STADEN AND MRS. SCHOELLER, THE WIFE OF THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, ACCOMPANYING MRS. CARTER ON BOTH DAYS. WE HAVE RESPONDED THAT, WHILE WE APPRECIATE THEIR KIND OFFER, WE BELIEVE MRS. CARTER MAY WISH TO MAKE A PRIVATE TOUR WITH HER DAUGHTER, KEEPING HER PARTY TO A MINIMUM. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF MRS. VON STADEN AND MRS. SCHOELLER.
- 5. PRESS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MRS. CARTER DESIRES TO KEEP HER ACTIVITIES AS PRIVATE AS POSSIBLE AND WE ARE PROCEEDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH HER WISHES. NONETHELESS, CONFIDENTIAL

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WE ANTICIPATE THAT HER EXCURSIONS ON JULY 16 AND 17 WILL BE A SOURCE OF MAJOR PRESS INTEREST. MANY REPORTERS, BOTH GERMAN AND AMERICAN, WILL LIKELY WISH TO ACCOMPANY THE FIRST LADY ON BOTH DAYS. ONE POSSIBILITY IS TO AGREE UPON A SMALL AMERICAN AND GERMAN PRESS POOL. THE NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS IN THE POOL COULD BE NEGOTIATED. ALTERNATIVELY, WE COULD FACILITATE BROADER PRESS COVERAGE, ALTHOUGH THIS COULD RAISE LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS (E.G., AN ADDITIONAL BOAT OR TRAIN CAR). ACTION REQUESTED: SHOULD WE PROCEED WITH LOGISTIC ARRANGEMENTS ON THE BASIS OF A PRESS POOL AND, IF SO, HOW MANY? WOULD THE POOL OF REPORTERS ACCOMPANY MRS. CARTER IN THE PROSPECTIVE SPECIAL CAR TRAIN FROM BAD GODESBERG TO BINGEN AND ON THE PRIVATELY CHARTERED BOAT? ALTERNATIVELY, SHOULD WE PROCEED ON THE BASIS

THAT THE VISIT WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PRESS OR COMPLETELY
OPEN, THAT IS NOT RESTRICTED TO POOL COVERAGE.
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